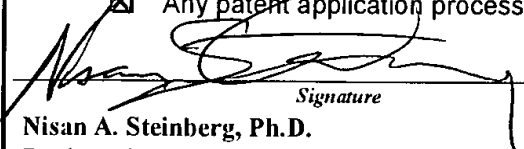

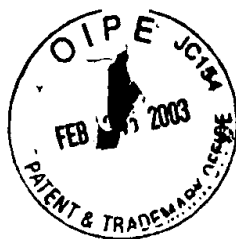


1635

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER (Small Entity)				Docket No. CEDAR-44526 (18810-80380)	
Applicant(s): Levesque, et al		Serial No. 09/545,428		Filing Date FEB 25 2003	
		Examiner Schmidt, M.		Group Art Unit 1635	
Invention: TRANSDIFFERENTIATION OF TRANSFECTED EPIDERMAL BASAL CELLS INTO NEURAL PROGENITOR CELLS, NEURONAL CELLS AND/OR GLIAL CELLS					
<u>TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:</u>					
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small Entity status of this application has been established under 37 CFR 1.27 by a verified statement previously submitted. <input type="checkbox"/> A verified statement to establish Small Entity status under 37 FR 1.27 is enclosed. The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.					
CLAIMS AS AMENDED					
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	13 -	20 =	0 x	\$9.00	\$0.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	3 -	3 =	0 x	\$42.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1597 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.					
Signature  Nisan A. Steinberg, Ph.D. Registration No. 40,345 Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP 555 West Fifth Street, Suite 4000 Los Angeles, California 90013 Ph. (213) 896-6000			Dated: February 20, 2003		
CC:			<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;"> Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Raun Burnham Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence</div>		



CEDAR - 44526
(18810 - 80380)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Levesque *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/545,428

Filed: April 7, 2000

For: **TRANSDIFFERENTIATION OF TRANSFECTED EPIDERMAL
BASAL CELLS INTO NEURAL PROGENITOR CELLS, NEURONAL
CELLS AND/OR GLIAL CELLS**

Examiner: Schmidt, M.

Art Unit: 1635

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING FILED BY FIRST CLASS MAIL AND IS ADDRESSED TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS WASHINGTON, D. C. 20231, ON <u>February 20, 2003</u> (DATE)	
BY <u>Raun Burnham</u>	
<u>2/20/2003</u> (DATE OF SIGNATURE)	

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is in Response to the Office Action mailed November 20, 2002, for the above-captioned patent application. This response is submitted on or before February 20, 2002. In connection with the above-captioned application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the following Amendment and Applicant's Remarks.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to the entry of the claim amendments, Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 11, 12, 16 and 22-27 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 26, and 27 are directed to an in vitro method of transdifferentiating an epidermal basal cell into a cell having one or more morphological, physiological and/or immunological feature(s) of a glial cell. Claim 5 is directed to a transdifferentiated cell having one or more morphological, physiological and/or immunological feature(s) of a glial cell. Claims 8, 16, 22, 23, and 24 are directed to a transdifferentiated cell by the process of Claim 1. Claims 11 and 12 are directed to a kit for converting, in vitro, epidermal basal cells into cells having one or more morphological, physiological and/or immunological feature(s) of a glial cell. Claim 25 is directed to an in vitro cell culture derived from the transdifferentiated cell of Claim 8.

The Office Action Summary states that Claim 21 is pending in this current application. Applicant notes that Claim 21 was cancelled, without prejudice, in Applicant's Response (mailed August 22, 2002) to the previous Office Action (mailed July 22, 2002) requiring a restriction. Applicant's election of the claims, currently pending, was made with a complete reservation of all rights under 35 U.S.C. § 121.